

Volume 4 | Issue 39 | October 2024

EXCELLENCE



HOT OFF THE WIRE

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been awarded the Cognia 2024 System of Distinction Award. Cognia is a renowned non-profit organization that specializes in accreditation and certification services for K-12 schools nationally and abroad. The District received the highest possible rating in 28 of the 30 Performance Standards and a score of 395, five points away from a perfect score of 400.

Across the globe, Cognia conducted approximately 1,950 accreditation engagement reviews during the 2023-2024 school year. Of these, only 11 U.S. school systems were recognized as systems of distinction.

iLead



"iLead by building the capacity of those around me and through creating sustainable systems that can be reflected upon and replicated with a focus on what is best for students."

> — Romulo Espinosa Principal, Andover Middle School 2024 Assistant Principal of the Year

BODY & MIND

"It's fall, y'all! Watch the trees show us the value of letting go."



– Wynn, your wellness buddy

Magnet Application season runs October 1 - January 15. Administrators and Magnet Leads: Share your innovative programs! We can promote your programs to feeder patterns, charter schools and unenrolled students. Contact School Choice & Parental Options at innovation@dadeschools.net.



ABOVE & BEYOND

Dr. Karen Silva-Haj is a TRUST specialist at Leewood K-8 Center. Committed to the well-being of the whole child, Dr. Silva-Haj ensures students are treated fairly and equally and that their voices are heard, and she even leads Leewood's Wellness Club. Beyond campus, Dr. Silva-Haj is involved with Girl Scouts of America and volunteers with Branches Empowerment Centers.

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Veteran Educators Take New Teachers Out of this World!

The District has welcomed hundreds of newly hired teachers to the 2024-2025 school year. After engaging in professional learning opportunities, including the framework of effective instruction, content-specific sessions, and mentoring and orientation at New Teacher Induction, M-DCPS' newest educators are nervous and excited to be our students' best choice in education.

Some of our veteran educators offer their expert know-how to put our rookies at ease and get their classrooms to levels Out of this World!



I hope to engage and inspire future scientists of America. I fear not being inspirational or getting them to care enough.

—Edian Villar, Chemistry, J.C. Bermudez Doral SHS

Chemistry is the closest thing to magic. When I shout with excitement after a demonstration and show them the goosebumps on my arm, they are hooked! —Josh Cloutier, Chemistry, Coral Reef SHS





I hope to motivate my students, but I am worried about building relationships with some of my more experienced coworkers.

—Julius Greenburg, ELA, Miami Central SHS

Valuable relationships will naturally develop as you collaborate in supporting students in achieving their goals. Your contributions are equally valuable.

—Martha Bugallo, ELA, South Miami SHS

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YOUR BEST CHOICE

I hope I can positively impact my students' lives. I fear giving my all and that it still won't be enough.

—Josselin Martinez, ESL, John G. Dupuis ES



Embrace both the hope and fear. Impact sometimes becomes evident only over time. Strive to be supportive, empathetic, and dedicated.

—Michelle Martin, ESL, West Hialeah Gardens ES



I fear I will try too hard to make sure every student can understand the information, and in doing so, other students will become bored.

—Alberto Charria, Art, Felix Varela SHS



You have about 15 minutes of direction before their eyes glaze over. If after that, they are still lost, help them one at a time or let them work with their peers.

—Thomas Burns, Art, Miami Palmetto SHS



My biggest concern is missing something that I'm expected to perform and feeling that I am not set up for success.

—Natalie Goodin, Science, David Lawrence, Jr. K-8

I don't think we choose the educator's life; I think the educator's life chooses us. That's a lot to expect. It's okay to set your own realistic goals. You got this.

—Stephanie Abreu, Science, Miami Lakes MS



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'Tis the Season of Innovation!

M-DCPS Magnet Schools offer a dynamic pathway to educational excellence. With 11 themes of study to choose from, families working within M-DCPS can increase their child's chances for selection. We've reserved 5% of all available seats at each non-audition-based Magnet School Program for children of District employees, to be filled using a separate random selection process, just like the general pool. Employees' children will also participate in the general Magnet lottery, where acceptances from the general pool take precedence over the Employee-Benefit pool.





Student Health & Safety

As part of M-DCPS' ongoing efforts to protect the health and well-being of our students, and as your best choice in student safety and wellness, vape detectors have been installed at nine high schools across the district, which detect the chemical particles exhaled with the use of a vaping device. The CDC reports more than 2 million American students use vaping devices. The nicotine in vaping devices can impact student attention, learning and memory, and can even have long-term consequences on their brain development.

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